

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

STRE-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-02 /139 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2577

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 27 LOCAL REPS MEETING OF GATT CG-18

REF: STATE 237365

DURING SEPT 27 MEETING OF LOCAL REPS PREPARATORY TO OCT 25-26
GATT CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18, FOLLOWING AGENDA WAS AGREED:

1. RECENT TRADE IN AGRICULTURE. AUSTRALIA HOPED TO HAVE A
PAPER AVAILABLE FOR CIRCULATION BY END OF THIS WEEK. INCLU-
SION OF ITEM ON AGENDA WAS AGREED, ALTHOUGH JAPAN NOTED THEY
STILL FEEL MTN IS PROPER PLACE FOR SUCH DISCUSSION.

3. BOP MEASURES AND GATT-IMF COORDINATION. D-G LONG PLANS
REPORT ON STATUS OF HIS CURRENT GATT-IMF COORDINATION DISCUS-
SIONS, ALTHOUGH IT NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL CIRCULATE A
PAPER IN ADVANCE. U.S. SAID WHILE WE LOOK FORWARD TO
LONG'S REPORT, WE WISHED MAKE IT CLEAR U.S. WAS REQUEST-
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ING RETURN OF FULL BOP ITEM TO AGENDA AND HOPED THAT AS

RESULT OF PREVIOUS CG-18 DISCUSSION, NEW POINTS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. CANADA AGREED WITH U.S. (BEFORE MEETING, IN ACCORD REFTTEL, WE INFORMED LUYTEN U.S. DESIRED CONSULT WITH EC ON HANDLING OF THIS MATTER AT CG-18 MEETING. HE IMPLIED THERE WAS NO BUDGE IN EC POSITION, BUT DID NOT REJECT IDEA OF U.S.-EC ADVANCE DISCUSSION OF MATTER BEFORE CG-18 MEETING.)

4. TRADING SYSTEM AND ROLE OF GATT. MATHUR, WHO CHAIRED MEETING, SAID NO SPECIFIC POINTS HAD YET BEEN ADVANCED FOR DISCUSSION UNDER THIS STANDARD ITEM AND NOTED THAT FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT HAD NOW MOVED ON TO 7-PLUS-7. HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR CG-18 DISCUSS DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. AS EXPECTED, MATHUR NOTED THAT SEVERAL MTN SUB-GROUPS WERE ALREADY BROACHING DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND NOTED THAT BRAZIL'S PROPOSED FRAMEWORK GROUP MIGHT ALSO TAKE IT UP. EC SURPRISED US BY STATING THAT SINCE CG-18 WAS CONSULTATIVE ONLY, AND THEREBY MUST SHOW ITS WORTH THROUGH THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TAKE PLACE, THEY AGREED THAT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT COULD BE DISCUSSED. EC EMPHASIZED THEY DID NOT SEE SUCH DISCUSSION LEADING TO CONCLUSIONS OR DECISIONS BUT RATHER EXPECTED SEE WHAT EXTENT DISCUSSION MIGHT HELP ILLUMINATE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT QUESTION WHEN IT IS TAKEN UP IN OTHER FORA. EC SAID DISCUSSION SHOULD NOT LEAD TO RECOMMENDATIONS EVEN NEXT YEAR, AS THIS WOULD BE DUPLICATION OF MTN WORK. U.S. SAID CG-18 COULD STILL HAVE USEFUL DISCUSSIONS, AGREED WITH EC RE EXPLORATORY NATURE, BUT NOTED IF SOME CONCLUSIONS SHOULD NATURALLY EMERGE, WE WOULD WELCOME THEM. (EGYPT, HAMZA, ARGUED THAT CG-18 SERVED NO USEFUL PURPOSE IF IT DID NOT LEAD TO CONCLUSIONS.) WE AGREED WITH EC THAT GROUP DID NOT HAVE TO EMBARK ON DISPUTE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SPECIFIC AIM OF REACHING CONCLUSIONS. WE SAID A PAPER FROM GATT SECRETARIAT WOULD BE WELCOME. MATHUR SAID SECRETARIAT PAPER WOULD LIST HEADINGS UNDER WHICH PROBLEM COULD BE VIEWED, PLUS SOME POINTS UNDER EACH. W HIPPED PAPER COULD CONTAIN SECRETARIAT'S OWN VIEWS OF BROADER GATT ACTIVITIES IN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AREA, ANOT LIMITED TO MTN BUT ALSO TO INCLUDE RECENT PANELS AND COUNCIL DISLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CUSSIONS UNDER ARTICLES XXII AND XXIII. AUSTRALIA, ARGENTIAN GROUSED A BIT ABOUT APPROPRIATENESS OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT DISCUSSION IN CG-18, BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED. BRAZIL (MACIEL), SUPPORTED BY INDIA (CHADHA), SUGGESTED THAT AGENDA ITEM BE LISTED AS "TRADING SYSTEM AND THE ROLE OF THE GATT" WITH "DISPUTE SETTLEMENT" AS SUB-ITEM. IN RESPONSE OUR QUESTION AS TO WHAT OTHER MATTERS MIGHT BE

DISCUSSED UNDER THIS HEADING, WE GOT NO CLEAR REACTION BUT IT CLEAR LDCS WANT RESERVE POSSIBILITY RAISE FURTHER TOPICS UNDER POINT.

5. REPORT TO COUNCIL AND DISCUSSION OF CG-18'S FUTURE. MATHUR SAID LONG HOPED MEMBERS COULD ARRIVE AT OCT 25-26 SESSION PREPARED TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF CG-18 AND TERMS OF REFERENCE. U.S. AGREED AND NOTED MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO BE PREPARED DISCUSS REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES. EC SAID IT WAS UP TO COUNCIL TO DISCUSS GROUP'S FUTURE AND SAID SEPARATE AGNEDA ITEM FOR CG-18 NOT NEEDED AS ITEM ONE ABOVE COULD COVER ANY SUCH DISCUSSION. U.S. THEN SUGGESTED TWO SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS: ONE FOR REPORT AND ONE FOR GROUP'S FUTURE. WE ASKED ABOUT PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF REPORT, SINCE IT SEEMS UNLIKELY IT CAN BE DRAFTED AND APPROVED DURING NEXT CG-18 MEETING. EC AND SOME OTHERS ARGUED IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CG-18 ITSELF TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL CONCERNING ITS FUTURE. MATHUR SAID GROUP COULD DISCUSS ITS OWN FUTURE WITHOUT IN ANY WAY TAKING AWAY COUNCIL'S AUTHORITY IN THIS AREA. INDIA SUGGESTED CG-18 MEMBERS BE PREPARED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ABOUT GROUP'S FUTURE WHEN THEY ARRIVE FOR OCT 25-26 SESSION; MATHUR AGREED BUT SAID REPS SHOULD COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE DURING THE MEETING AS WELL.

MATHUR SAID D-G LONG MAY WISH CONVENE ANOTHER MEETING OF LOCAL REPS ON OCT 11, ALTHOUGH AT PRESENT WE SEE NO NEED AND WILL ATTEMPT DISCOURAGE.CATTO

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